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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/783,610	02/15/2001	Brian C. Roundtree	5649	9397

25943 7590 11/22/2004

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EXAMINER

COLON, CATHERINE M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3623

DATE MAILED: 11/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/783,610

Applicant(s)

ROUNDTREE ET AL.

S

Examiner

C. Michelle Colon

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 February 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/14/02</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a Non-Final Office Action in response to the communication received on February 15, 2001. Claims 1-30 are now pending in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The examiner has reviewed the patents and publications supplied in the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) provided on January 14, 2002.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Robertson et al. (U.S. 6,714,916).

As per claim 1, Robertson et al. discloses a method for distributing and providing personal information based upon a user request, comprising:

receiving from a requestor a request for personal information relating to a target person, the request including a request purpose (col. 2, lines 61-65; col. 3, lines 1-7;

Members can establish links with other members. By linking to other members, a member can request access to personal information of those other members.);

requesting the personal information of the target person from a plurality of information sources and based upon the request (col. 6, lines 22-31; Figure 9; A member requests access to other members' personal information through a third-party contact management system. The personal information can come from a plurality of information sources such as various relational database tables.);

gathering the personal information based upon responses to the requesting and providing the gathered personal information to the requestor (col. 8, lines 36-53 and 63-67; col. 9, lines 14-18; Figure 9; Members can view personal information of other members when they have been granted permission from the other members.).

As per claim 2, Robertson et al. discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the receiving step includes receiving a gift purpose as the request purpose (col. 9, lines 36-40; col. 11, lines 23-37; Members can access other members' birthday or anniversary information. Birthdays and anniversaries are gift purposes.).

As per claim 3, Robertson et al. discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the gathering step includes obtaining the personal information from the target person (col. 6, lines 65-67; col. 7, lines 1-7 and 27-34; A member must provide his/her own personal information before others access it.).

As per claim 4, Robertson et al. discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the receiving step includes receiving the request from a server and including the request

purpose based upon date-related information (col. 5, lines 54-57; col. 7, lines 27-34; col. 11, lines 23-37; Birthdays and anniversaries are date-related information.).

As per claim 5, Robertson et al. discloses the method of claim 1, further including:

transmitting a query to the requestor, the query relating to submitting a request for personal information for the target person and receiving selection of the query as the request (col. 8, lines 36-53; Members who ask to access other members' information, also have to select what personal information they want accessed about them.).

As per claim 6, Robertson et al. discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the requesting step includes sending messages requesting the personal information from a plurality of persons (col. 2, lines 61-65; col. 3, lines 1-7; col. 6, lines 65-67; Members can establish links with other members. By linking to other members, a member can request access to personal information of those other members.).

As per claim 7, Robertson et al. discloses the method of claim 1, further including:

sending a request for the personal information to the target person and receiving from the target person an indication of permitted access to the personal information (col. 2, lines 61-65; col. 3, lines 1-7; col. 6, lines 65-67; Members can establish links with other members. By linking to other members, a member can request access to personal information of those other members.).

As per claim 8, Robertson et al. discloses the method of claim 7, further including:

sending to the target person a request for the personal information along with an identification of the requestor and receiving from the target person an indication of permitted access to the personal information by the requestor (col. 2, lines 61-65; col. 3, lines 1-7; col. 6, lines 65-67; Members can establish links with other members. By linking to other members, a member can request access to personal information of those other members.).

As per claim 9, Robertson et al. discloses the method of claim 6, further including identifying the plurality of persons based upon relationships with the target person (col. 2, lines 58-65; col. 5, lines 26-30 and 47-54; Members are identified as being associated with the same affinity groups with each other and as being "friends.").

As per claim 10, Robertson et al. discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the requesting step includes sending messages requesting the personal information from a plurality of entities (col. 2, lines 61-65; col. 3, lines 1-7; col. 6, lines 65-67; Multiple members can link to each other at one time and thus, send multiple messages requesting access to personal information of other members.).

As per claim 11, Robertson et al. discloses the method of claim 10, further including identifying the plurality of entities based upon previously-gathered personal information of the target person (col. 5, lines 39-57; The various affinity groups associated with a member can be identified.).

As per claim 12, Robertson et al. discloses the method of claim 1, further including querying the requestor to determine if the requestor wants to request additional personal information (col. 8, lines 36-53; Members who ask to access other

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members' information, also have to select what personal information they want accessed about them.).

As per claim 13, Robertson et al. discloses the method of claim 1, further including storing the personal information and associating the stored personal information with the target person (col. 4, line 66-col. 5, line 10; Figures 5 and 6; Member data is stored in a relational database so that various data can be associated.).

As per claim 14, Robertson et al. discloses the method of claim 1, further including obtaining the personal information from a database storing information related to the target person (col. 4, line 66-col. 5, line 10; Figures 5 and 6; Member data is stored in a relational database so that various data can be associated.).

As per claim 15, Robertson et al. discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the providing step includes providing at least one of the following to the requestor: an identification of service providers to satisfy the request purpose; an identification of services to satisfy the request purpose; an identification of products to satisfy the request purpose; or profile information relating to the target person (col. 2, line 66-col. 3, line 11; col. 6, lines 37-40; col. 8, lines 54-67; Members can view profile information of other members as long as they have been granted permission by the other members.).

Claims 16-30 recite substantially similar limitations to claims 1-15 above. Therefore, claims 16-30 are rejected on the same basis as claims 1-15 above.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Robertson (U.S. 6,269,369) discusses a networked personal contact manager;
- Sutcliffe et al. (U.S. 5,913,212) discusses a personal journal contact management system;
- Kulkarni (U.S. 5,950,193) discusses an address book database system;
- Sutcliffe et al. (U.S. 6,052,122) discusses a method for matching registered profiles.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to C. Michelle Colon whose telephone number is 703-605-4251. The examiner can normally be reached Monday – Friday from 8:30am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz, can be reached at 703-305-9643.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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Washington D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

703-872-9306 [Official Communications; including After Final
communications labeled "Box AF"]


703-746-7202 [For status inquiries, draft communication, labeled
"Proposed" or "Draft"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal
Drive, Arlington, VA 7th floor receptionist.



cmc

November 17, 2004



SUSANNA M. DIAZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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